

**Developmental Disabilities Council**  
**Policy & Law Committee Minutes**  
**April 24, 2017**  
**Friendly's, Middletown, De.**  
**9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Members Present: Terri Hancharick, (Acting Chair) Daniese McMullin-Powell, Barbara Monaghan, Bill Monaghan.

Members Absent: Rick Kosmalski, Deb McCann, Nancy Lemus

Staff: Pat Maichle

Guests: Nicole Johnson, Carmen Watson, Byron Chen

- I. Position Statements
  1. Discussion of Future Statements – Members discussed possible topics to work on. Health issues, community integration, and Transition (resources) were discussed as possible topics.
- II. Strategic Planning – Review of Goals/objectives
  1. Self-Advocacy #1 - Members brought suggestions of Partners graduates who are interested in being future Partners instructors. We will arrange for a training session for these folks to enable them to work on this project.
  2. Self-Advocacy - #5, An RFP has been issued to support a Self-Advocacy organization.
  3. Inter-Agency Collaboration #1 – An legislative meeting will be scheduled in September 2017.
- III. Legislative Update –
  1. Sidewalks – A few barriers are being discussed on this bill, but we continue to work on this bill with the sponsor and SCPD.
  2. Mental health/substance abuse – These 2 bills are moving forward in the Legislature with the support of the Attorney General and the Insurance Commissioner.
  3. Assisted suicide – We have a discussion meeting scheduled for Representative Baumbach on this topic this week and will move forward from there.
  4. Accessible Parking – So far, no movement has been made on this bill.

- IV. Public Policy Seminar – Review – Medicaid was a priority topic for those attending this event. Our members attended and met with our Congressional delegates to voice our concerns about proposed changes to the Health law. We also advocated for Medical Marijuana, Community First Choice Option, and funding for the DD Councils under DHHS. We also attended a rally at the Capitol Building with Congressional representatives and ADAPT to voice our concerns.
- V. Budget – Where are we? – The state deficit is a big concern this year and we are all bracing for what cuts will be occur in state government. In addition, the federal government has not passed a final budget for this year so they are fearing a government shutdown if a budget is not agreed upon. Funds will be tight for the next year.
- VI. Other Business From the Group – We will be discussing at the next Council meeting a change in the date for the July meeting. We are working on the rooms in which to have the meeting before we settle on a date.
- VII. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting will be on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 at Friendlys in Middletown.
- VIII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned by 11:30 a.m.